

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for retrieving and viewing webpages in a single web browser instance operating on a user's computer, comprising the sequential steps of:

submitting, from said web browser, a search request to an Internet search engine located on the Internet,wherein said search request is initiated by the user and is not initiated automatically during off hours based on historical searching patterns of the user;

receiving a hyperlink list from said search engine, said hyperlink list having been automatically rank-ordered by said search engine, to form a queue of rank-ordered hyperlinks;

automatically loading a plurality of webpages referred to by said queue of rank-ordered hyperlinks to form a rank-ordered queue of webpages stored on the user's computer; and

viewing said webpages in the single web browser instance.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 where said loading is accomplished by preloading a selectable number of webpages pointed to by a selectable number of hyperlinks in the queue of hyperlinks,and wherein descendant webpages are preloaded for some, but not all, of said selectable number of webpages.

3-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 where said loading is further accomplished by concurrently preloading a predetermined number of webpages pointed to by hyperlinks in the queue of hyperlinks,and wherein descendant webpages are preloaded for some, but not all, of said predetermined number of webpages.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 where said loading is accomplished by determining the available network download bandwidth and preloading a predetermined number of webpages based on such available network download bandwidth.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 where said loading is further accomplished by:

determining that a processor within the user's computer isn't saturated; and

preload a predetermined number of webpages based on the processor's non-saturation state.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of displaying and operating on webpages in a single web browser instance operating on a user's computer, including:

simultaneously displaying at least a first and a second fully functional webpage in said web browser instance such that said at least first and second fully functional webpages are simultaneously visible to the user and may be operated on by the user, and wherein any of said at least first and second fully functional webpages may be operated on independently without altering the state of another of said at least first and second fully functional webpages,and wherein any displayed webpages are tiled in substantially equal-sized regions within the screen area.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 where said fully functional webpages are preloaded webpages that correspond to hyperlinks in a rank-ordered queue of hyperlinks returned by an Internet search engine.

11-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 including changing the number of webpages that are simultaneously displayed according to an input from the user and when additional webpages are made visible, populating these additional webpages automatically with webpages corresponding to hyperlinks in said rank-ordered queue of hyperlinks.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 including selectively saving the rank-ordered queue of hyperlinks or a portion thereof as a group bookmark hyperlink list that may be loaded in a web browser at a later time.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 including selectively deleting webpages displayed or queued for display.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 including selectively saving the queue of hyperlinks or a portion thereof as a group bookmark hyperlink list that may be loaded in a web browser at a later time.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for retrieving and viewing webpages in a single web browser instance operating on a user's computer, comprising the sequential steps of:

submitting, from said single web browser, a search request to an Internet search engine located on the Internet, wherein said search request is initiated by the user and is not initiated automatically during off hours based on historical searching patterns of the user;

receiving a hyperlink list from said Internet search engine, said hyperlink list having been automatically rank-ordered by said Internet search engine, and wherein said hyperlink list by default is not displayed;

automatically preloading a plurality of webpages referred to by said hyperlink list to form a rank-ordered queue of webpages stored on the user's computer; and

viewing at least two webpages from said rank-ordered queue of webpages in separate windows within said single web browser instance such that all of said at least two webpages are fully active and simultaneously visible, and where any of said at least

two webpages may be operated on without altering the state of another of said at least two webpages; and

wherein descendant webpages are preloaded for some, but not all, of said at least two webpages.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 where said loading is accomplished by preloading a selectable number of webpages corresponding to a selectable number of hyperlinks in the queue of hyperlinks.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 including changing the number of webpages that are simultaneously displayed according to an input from the user.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 including selectively saving the queue of hyperlinks or a portion thereof as a group bookmark hyperlink list that may be loaded in a web browser at a later time.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 where said loading is further accomplished by concurrently preloading a predetermined number of webpages pointed to by hyperlinks in the queue of hyperlinks.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 where said loading is further accomplished by determining the available network download bandwidth and preloading a predetermined number of webpages based on such available network download bandwidth.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 where said loading is further accomplished by:

determining that a processor within the user's computer isn't saturated; and

preloading a predetermined number of webpages based on the processor's non-saturation state.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 including selectively deleting webpages displayed or queued for display.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for retrieving and viewing webpages in a single web browser instance operating on a user's computer, comprising the sequential steps of:

simultaneously submitting, from said web browser, a search request to multiple Internet search engines located on the Internet, and wherein said search request is initiated by the user and is not initiated automatically during off hours based on historical searching patterns of the user;

receiving a hyperlink list from each of said multiple Internet search engines, said hyperlink list having been automatically rank-ordered by the Internet search engine that supplied said hyperlink list;

automatically forming a single queue of hyperlinks from all hyperlink lists received by aggregating or prioritizing hyperlinks from said hyperlink lists;

automatically loading a plurality of webpages referred to by said single queue of hyperlinks to form a queue of webpages stored on the user's computer; and

viewing at least two webpages from said queue of webpages in separate windows within the single web browser instance such that all of said at least two webpages are fully active and simultaneously visible, and where any of said at least two webpages may be operated on without altering the state of another of said at least two webpages.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 where viewing said webpages includes displaying at least two additional fully functional webpages in said single web browser instance at the same time such that all of said at least two additional fully functional webpages are simultaneously visible to the user and may be operated on simultaneously, and where any of said at least two additional fully functional webpages may be operated on without altering the state of another of said at least two additional fully functional webpages.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 including selectively saving the queue of hyperlinks or a portion thereof as a group bookmark hyperlink list that may be loaded in a web browser at a later time.